

Activity: Recreation Programs

Activity Summary

	2003 Enacted	2004 Enacted	FY 2005			Change From 2004 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Recreation Programs	548	548	+3	0	551	+3
Total Requirements	548	548	+3	0	551	+3

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-3	The Outdoor Recreation Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 4601-6a (h)	The Land and Water Conservation Act, as amended
40 U.S.C. § 550(e)	The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, as amended
Public Law 106-355	National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000

Activity Overview

Recreation Programs cover a range of planning, Federal coordination, and technical assistance activities. The principal activity is the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas, and nationwide recreation information, statistics, and coordination.

DOI Outcome Goals Applicable to this Activity

Recreation

3.1 Provide for a Quality Recreation Experience, Including Access and Enjoyment of Natural and Cultural Resources Opportunities on DOI Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters

Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, and by providing technical assistance, planning and coordination, the programs in this activity support this goal by working to promote and expand recreational opportunities, and improving capacities to provide access for recreation. For example, the Federal Lands to Parks program facilitated the transfer of 63.5 acres of former Navy land to the City of Key West, FL, for public park and recreation use. Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations and by providing technical assistance, planning and coordination, the programs in this activity support this goal by working to enhance the quality of recreation opportunities, ensuring responsible use in recreation and improving assessments and information for decision making for the converted use of surplus Federal land and facilities.

FY 2005 Base Program Overview

The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. In partnership with State and local agencies, the FLP results in new and expanded State and community parks, increased close-to-home recreation, and protected open space and important natural and cultural resources. A great variety of land may be available from any agency of the Federal government, including military bases, U.S. Coast Guard stations, and Army Corps of Engineers water control projects. The land may be located in rural or urban areas; may consist of open space, forests, wetlands, lakes, or shorelines; and may contain existing historic and recreation facilities. In addition, communities may convert and restore non-recreational property to meet community open space or recreational needs.

The NPS recommendations and land transfers are based on an assessment of the community's need for the property, capability of the applicant, suitability of the property for the intended use, and a plan for the

proposed park use and/or development. Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the Service plays an important role in helping States and communities compete among other potential interests by communicating their needs and demonstrating the importance of ensuring long-term protection of and public access to resources.



The Federal Lands to Parks Program is the only Federal program for State or local agencies to acquire surplus Federal land for dedicated public recreation instead of paying fair market value. Once transferred, the land is protected for public park and recreation use in perpetuity for current and future generations. As a result, the program creates new State and local parks, provides public recreation services, conserves natural and historic resources, and contributes to community revitalization. In addition to benefiting communities, the FLP helps the Federal Government reduce its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities as well as management costs for those properties.

The National Park Service works with numerous partners and agencies to help convert surplus Federal land to public parks and recreation areas. Through the assistance of State and local governments, the NPS seeks communities that are interested in using the surplus land for park and recreation use and then aids communities in filing their application. The NPS acts as broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Services Administration, or military departments). The NPS approves the community's application, recommends the property transfer, prepares the deed, and conveys any restrictions associated with the deed.

After transferring the deed, the Park Service helps ensure continued public access to the properties for recreational use and protection of the properties' natural and cultural resources through site visits, follow-up contacts, technical assistance to communities, and deed and/or use agreement revisions as needed or requested. Federal Lands to Parks' acres are counted as preserved when property deeds are signed.

The FLP is addressing a marked increase in property transfers to help conclude past rounds of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). In addition to a backlog in BRAC properties, program staff screen and transfer other available Federal property through the General Services Administration, and review and recommend property transfers for historic lighthouses under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000.

Workload and performance tables are found after the justification of program changes at the end of this activity.

Use of Cost and Performance Information: Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program

The Federal Lands to Parks Program assists communities in acquiring lands or facilities newly available for public parks and recreation. Surplus Federal land is available during a short window of opportunity and otherwise would be disposed of for other purposes.

Increased numbers of available property for new parks annually, and the growing number of newly created parks, leave little time and resources for 3 staff to monitor and ensure that the more than 1,000 transferred properties remain protected and maintained for public park and recreation use in perpetuity, as required by law. However, with the help of the internet, NPS can focus on priorities, identified issues and helping communities better meet changing park and recreation needs. The FLP now lists on the internet all parklands transferred and required to be maintained for public parks and recreation use in perpetuity, as well as general program requirements and contacts.

With this information, local agencies and citizens better understand the Program and notify NPS of problems. NPS thereby extends its monitoring program, compensating for fewer onsite inspections, and provides targeted technical assistance resulting in improved park and recreation opportunities.

For example, the city of Southfield, MI recently acquired 30 acres adjacent to Carpenter Lake in exchange for a 5-acre underutilized ball field acquired in 1965. The ball field, formerly a portion of a control area for a Nike missile site, while well-used for many years, was surrounded over time by commercial development and few residences. The new property, one of the largest undeveloped pieces of property in a densely populated suburb of Detroit, preserves environmentally sensitive land along the Rouge River and provides a refuge for residents seeking a quiet place to walk and observe nature.

FLP guided the city through the exchange process to ensure that utility and value criteria were met. NPS handled the real estate transaction to ensure long-term protection of the new park.

- ① Find the Federal Lands to Parks Program online at: <http://www.nps.gov/flp>

FY 2003 Program Performance Accomplishments

Performance on NPS strategic goals:

- Provided 3,843 acres toward the NPS goal for partnerships acres made available for recreation (6% of the estimated total added in FY 2003).
- Supports NPS goal for community satisfaction with provide assistance.
- 20 recreation sites added and available in perpetuity.

Other Program Accomplishments:

- Deeded 3,843 acres (23 surplus Federal properties) in 15 states and Puerto Rico.
- Types of required assistance provided: licenses, land exchanges, leases, concession agreements, utility easements, changes in use, etc.
- Types of recreation capacity added: nature centers, trails, lighthouses, equestrian centers, sports fields, boating and fishing access, community parks, picnic areas, wildlife habitat and open space .
- Continued effort to reduce backlog of 50 state and local requests (10,000 acres) for assistance and potential new parks as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC).
- Completed customer satisfaction survey for 2002 activities (Result: 92% satisfied).

FY 2004 Planned Program Performance

Performance on NPS strategic goals:

	2003 Actual	2004 Plan	2004 plan versus 2003 actual
Partners acres of open space, parks, added	3,843	2,500	1,343 acres less
Partner satisfaction	No survey	92%	NA
Properties remaining available	1,088	1,108	20 added

Additional performance reported in NR&P-Rivers and Trails, and Land Acquisition-State Grants.

Other Program Accomplishments:

- Deed approximately 20 properties (2,500 acres) from former BRAC and non-BRAC surplus Federal real property
- Assist on 30 potential new properties, including historic lighthouses
- Monitor approximately 30 post-transfer stewardship requests
- Conduct two major environmental compliance cases
- Complete redesign of Federal Lands to Parks program real property data base for more efficient program operation and improved reporting timeliness and accuracy

- Continue effort to reduce backlog of 50 state and local requests (8,000 acres) for assistance and potential new parks as a result of BRAC
- Continue responsibility to ensure public recreation on 1,088 past transfers (116,170 acres)

Justification of FY 2004 Budget Request for Recreation Programs

Request Component	Amount
FY 2004 Budget Estimate	548
TOTAL, Program Changes	0
Uncontrollable changes	+3
FY 2004 Budget Request	551
Net change	+3

Workload Tables: Recreation Programs

Federal Lands to Parks Workload Factors

Workload Factors	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Estimate	FY 2005 Estimate
Percent of communities served satisfied with Federal Lands to Parks assistance	N/A ¹	92%	N/A ¹
Transfers to State and local parks and recreation ² <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acres • Properties/Parcels 	3,843 ⁴ 23	2,500 20	2,500 20
Number of sites inspected to ensure public access, operation, and protected resources.	68	30	30
Number of historic lighthouse transfers reviewed and recommended	10	15	15
Ongoing recreation sites protected through Federal Lands to Parks assistance (excl. NHLPA sites) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entire Sites³ • Properties/Parcels 	976 1,088	996 1,108	1010 1,128

¹ Customer surveys are scheduled at 2-year intervals. FY 2002 satisfaction results: 92%

² Subject to disposal schedule, approval and environmental clearance of other Federal land disposing agencies.

³ Includes the number of local park units/sites rather than the number of properties/parcels transferred. One park may include multiple transfers; one transfer may contribute to more than one park.

⁴ One property transfer was 2,832 acres.

Subactivity Performance Summary

(Includes performance supported by other NP&P Activities, Historic Preservation Fund and Land Acquisition – State Conservation Grants)

End Outcome Goal 3.1: Provide Recreation for America. Provide for a quality recreation experience, including access and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources on DOI managed or partnered lands and waters							
Recreation goals: Provide for recreation	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Plan/ Budget	2004 Revised Final Plan	FY 2005 Request	Change in Perform- ance 2004 to Planned 2005	Long- term Target (2008)
Recreational opportunities: Number of acres / river and shoreline miles made available for recreation through management actions and partnerships (SP) All targets are cumulative	782,710 partners	846,282 ¹ partners	916,700 partner acres	902,700 partners	956,600 partners	53,900 acres	1,113,500 partners
Percent of recreational properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF), the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation. (BUR IIIc1)	100%	100%	100%	100% (est. 34,986)	100% (est. 35,676)	690 prop- erties	100% (est. 37,356)

¹ Data for FY 2003 is not yet final. Preliminary data is based on partial reporting or is still being verified.